

<<SHORT PROFILES OF SPEAKERS>>

AVA BROMBERG is an internationally recognized urban planning scholar and spacemaker. Her research and practice focus on creative economies, public and social goods, community-driven planning and responsible development. She lectures and consults internationally on these topics. Ava was a 2002-2003 Thomas J. Watson Fellow, is a co-founder of Mess Hall, a storefront cultural center in Chicago, co-organizer of the Just Space(s) exhibition and symposium series, and co-editor of "Belltown Paradise / Making their own Plans" and Volumes 14 and 15 of "Critical Planning" the UCLA Urban Planning Journal. Ava has a Master's Degree in Urban Planning from UCLA, where she has received numerous prizes for her work and is currently conducting doctoral studies as a Chancellor's Fellow.

CASEY MACGREGOR holds an MSW from Hunter College School of Social Work with a focus on community organizing and planning. She is a second year doctoral student in Social Welfare at UCLA, focusing on the substantive area of vulnerable adolescents and young adults. She also currently works as a Qualitative Analyst at the Center for the Study of Healthcare Provider Behavior as a part of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Her VA projects are examining mental health services and outreach efforts for United States veterans.

NANAMI INADA is a research fellow and Ph.D candidate at Urban Research Plaza of Osaka City University. She is specialized in social geography and poverty studies. Her research theme has been on practices for community inclusion and welfare for the low-income elders living alone through geographical perspective. She is currently working on researches about community-based social welfare and social work practices in remote islands, depopulated areas, and poor neighborhoods in urban cities.

KAORI YAMAMOTO is currently enrolled in her second year of Master's program in Social Welfare at Doshisha University. Her research interest is in a field of civic education and participatory learning. She was involved in a social welfare planning as an intern at Seika-town government office last year.

AYAKA NAKAJI has recently earned BA from Doshisha University with a major in social welfare. She will enroll in a Master's program in social work at University of Hawai'i from this fall. The field of her interest is culturally competent practice especially with women of ethnic minorities.

SHINICHI MUROTA is a JSPS research fellow and Ph.D candidate in Social Welfare at Doshisha University. He holds a master's degree from Hunter College School of Social Work with a focus on community organizing and planning. He has worked as a community organizer at a settlement house in New York City where he led an advocacy campaign for immigrants' voting rights and affordable housing. His current research is about a role of community organizers and their strategies in relationship to the role of the government/welfare state.